

REMARKS

By this Amendment claim 1 has been amended to clarify the fact that the pressure generated in the solution from osmosis is transferred to a further liquid by a pressure exchange. There are three liquids in the inventive process: the "liquid", the "solution", and the "further liquid." The osmosis step (a) occurs between a liquid, such as seawater, and a solution having a higher osmotic potential than the liquid, such as a concentrated magnesium sulphate solution. The difference in osmotic pressures between the liquid and solution causes the solution to become pressurized by an influx of liquid across the membrane. This pressure is transferred to a further liquid via a pressure exchange system (step (b)). It is this further liquid that is used to drive a prime mover. The examiner has referred to the drawings of the present application to support his allegation that a third liquid is not present. However, a third liquid is simply not illustrated in the drawings. This does not mean that a third liquid is not disclosed or recited in the claims.

In the final Office Action the examiner has rejected claims 1-5, 9-11, 15 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Popper et al., he has rejected claims 1-21 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Loeb in view of Popper et al., and he has rejected claims 5-8, 12-14 and 17-20 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Popper et al.

These rejections are incorrect!

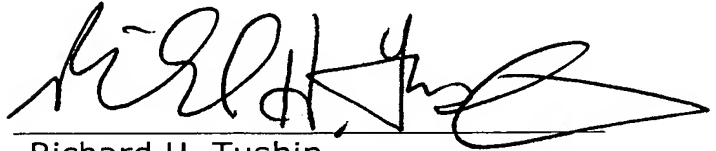
Popper et al. do not disclose a system in which a third liquid is used to drive the prime mover. As acknowledged by the examiner on page 2 of the Office Action, Popper et al. disclose a system in which the pressurized solutions in chambers 46 and 46' are used directly to move the prime mover 52. Unlike the claimed invention, the pressure in these solutions is not transferred to a further solution which is then used to drive the prime mover. For this reason, it is submitted that Popper et al. does not disclose the method of claim 1.

Claim 1 is also considered to be inventive over Popper et al and Loeb. As previously explained, the solution that is pressurized by osmosis is not used directly to drive the prime mover. Instead, the pressure in the solution is transferred to a further liquid, which is then used to drive the prime mover. This allows the prime mover to be driven by a liquid that is free of dissolved salts, thereby reducing the risk of corrosion or damage to the prime mover. In Popper et al. and Loeb, a pressurized osmotic solution is used directly to drive a prime mover. There is no disclosure or suggestion in either of these patents of using a further liquid to drive the prime mover. There is also no disclosure or suggestion of the pressure exchange system of claim 1. In view of this, it is submitted that no combination of Popper et al. and Loeb would suggest the method of claim 1.

A prompt allowance of this application is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

By:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Richard H. Tushin', written over a horizontal line.

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